

PHH Fantus, the nation's longtime leader in business relocation, reported that at least half of all businesses looking to expand or relocate start their search by crossing off states like Montana that don't have Right to Work laws.

According to the U.S. Labor Department, between 1995 and 2005, non-agricultural employment in Right to Work states grew 65% faster than in non-Right to Work states like Montana.

Individual Montanans would also benefit from passage of H.B. 344.

A recent study by Dr. Barry Poulson, a past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association and also a professor of economics at the University of Colorado -- a forced unionism state, compared household incomes in 133 metropolitan areas in Right to Work states with those of 158 metropolitan areas in non-Right to Work states.

Dr. Poulson found that the 2002 average real income for households in Right to Work state metro areas, when all else was equal, was \$4,258 more than non-Right to Work state metro areas.

The conclusion is clear: The economic benefits of a Right to Work law are too strong to be ignored.

Although the case for Right to Work legislation in Montana is compelling from any legitimate perspective -- moral, political or economic -- union officials who want to keep coercing union dues from unwilling workers will say or do anything to keep the forced-dues money rolling into their coffers.

However, by fighting against Right to Work, union officials are telling you the only way they can stay in business -- and they are a big business -- is by forcing their members to pay dues.

Right to Work supporters know that when workers see a union truly representing them, they won't need to be compelled to pay tribute -- they will gladly join.

For these reasons, the individual freedom and job-creating power of a Right to Work law are supported by an overwhelming majority of Montana's citizens.

No American should be required to join a labor union just to keep a job, and no Big Sky State citizen should be

compelled to pay dues to an organization they do not believe in.

In the interests of the rights of the working men and women of Montana, of sound public policy and of basic fairness, I urge you to support H.B. 344.